



The Big Sky Country

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MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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RECEIVED BY U.S. FISH
AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
GRIZZLY BEAR RECOVERY
COORDINATORS OFFICE

DEC 01 1997

COMMITTEES:
JUDICIARY
NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE/FEDERAL RELATIONS, CHAIRMAN

Fortine, Montana
November 28, 1997

Grizzly Bear Coordinator
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Missoula, Montana 59806

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed grizzly introduction in the Selway/Bitterroot Wilderness.

The fact that over 5,000 people by petition have indicated opposition to the plan, and that leading civic groups have written on behalf of their memberships to express opposition should carry far more weight than the testimony of persons who do not live adjacent to the introduction area, or be impacted in any way by your actions.

1 | Under the Endangered Species Act you are directed to consider the customs and culture of communities, and render decisions which do not adversely impact those values or threaten their well-being and lifestyle.

Forging ahead with this proposal which infringes on the rights of Western Montana and Eastern Idaho citizens is to ignore existing law, and ride roughshod over the rights of citizens who live adjacent to the introduction area. They, in all probability, will be required to sacrifice even more than they anticipate, as implementation plans will certainly involve management of areas outside the introduction area to meet your concept of habitat protection.

Respectfully submitted,

Aubyn Curtiss

Aubyn Curtiss, H.D. 81
Chairman, State/Federal Relations Committee